Highlights of Accomplishments
Two Years of Progress

Advancing the National Forest Strategy • 2003-2008

NATIONAL FOREST STRATEGY COALITION

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HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Advancing the National Forest Strategy • 2003-2008

A Sustainable Forest: The Canadian Commitment

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

National Forest Strategy Coalition members and other partners across Canada's forest community are leading change, as highlighted in this two-year accomplishments report. Collectively, the achievements show a strong commitment to work together to face the challenges along the path toward a sustainable forest, nationally and globally. Every action, big and small, counts in bringing us closer to our goal of the long-term health of Canada's forest.

Many individuals and diverse governmental and non-governmental organizations across Canada are also delivering activities that relate to the fifth *National Forest Strategy (2003-2008), A Sustainable Forest: The Canadian Commitment* and its companion the third *Canada Forest Accord*. Together, these are the overarching national frameworks for guiding policy, science and program initiatives in Canada. They capture and define the collective vision and values that Canadians have for the future of their forest. As well, they are recognized internationally as this country's National Forest Programme.

As we oversee the implementation of the National Forest Strategy, with the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers as its trustee, we will continue to rely on the advice and efforts from the broad forest community. This will be especially important as we prepare a more comprehensive progress report and undertake an independent evaluation in the remaining three years. In identifying our successes, opportunities and challenges and in making adjustments along the way, we will strategically position Canada before the XIII World Forestry Congress. We will also help the country fulfill actions relating to its many international responsibilities.

Pursuing the goal and objectives of the Strategy and Accord, and communicating results, will serve Canada's forest community well through to 2008 and beyond. With your continued support and action, I am confident we truly can make greater strides toward the vision of a sustainable forest a Canadian reality.

Jean Cinq-Mars, *Chair*
National Forest Strategy Coalition

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WORKING TOGETHER

United under a common vision, governmental and non-governmental organizations across Canada are proving that by working together they can make great strides toward how the forest can be used and enjoyed now, as well as can be protected and conserved for the future. The National Forest Strategy is implemented through the determined actions of members from a broad cross-sectoral community—governments, Aboriginal peoples (First Nations, Inuit, Métis), the forest industry, non-timber forest product organizations, academia, research institutes, the recreation and tourism industry, forest practitioners, private woodlot owners, non-governmental conservation organizations and environmentalists. The vision in Canada is:

The long-term health of Canada's forest will be maintained and enhanced, for the benefit of all living things, and for the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of all Canadians now and in the future.

The **National Forest Strategy Coalition** (*http://nfsc.forest.ca*) encourages action, in planning reviews and in evaluating and communicating the Strategy to Canadians—regionally, nationally and internationally. It is truly a forest community roundtable that delivers and demonstrates Canadian commitment to advancing sustainable forest management, while enhancing cross-sectoral partnerships. It brings together diverse individuals, companies and organizations to work cooperatively on the National Forest Strategy's actions. As of 2005, there are 67 national and regional organizations participating in this ever-expanding, Canada-wide governmental and non-governmental partnership. These members set clear targets, take actions and communicate results. Other members of Canada's forest community also implement sustainable forest management activities that relate to the National Forest Strategy. They, too, can join, add benefit and gain from the initiative by sharing their experiences.

In addition to overseeing implementation at the Coalition level, individual members actively participate in and influence the course of the Strategy as priorities evolve in ways that are appropriate to their circumstances and capabilities. Through eight thematic areas, members deliver the Strategy's objectives and action items. A snapshot of their activities is captured in this report.

Similarly, the British Columbia Coalition for Implementation of the National Forest Strategy is a noteworthy model of how a regional network, with an informal governance structure, makes valuable contributions that help achieve the eight strategic themes set out in the National Forest Strategy.

Furthermore, **Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Forest Service (NRCan-CFS)** leads a federal cross-sectoral implementation response to the National Forest Strategy. This response, which involves some 20 federal departments and agencies, demonstrates the federal government's actions to advance sustainable forest management across Canada in partnership with others in the forest community and other sectors. It illustrates the vital role the forest plays in Canada, and the steps being taken to fulfill international, forest-related responsibilities.

The governmental members of the National Forest Strategy Coalition belong to the **Canadian Council of Forest Ministers** (*http://ccfm.org*), which consists of the governing officials from all Canadian federal, provincial and territorial forest jurisdictions. They are committed to addressing national and international issues and setting the overall direction for stewardship and sustainable management of Canada's forest. Here too, there is an appreciation of the value of working together in partnership with the forest community at large and, in doing so, ensuring the National Forest Strategy's continued coordination as its public trustee.

TWO YEARS OF PROGRESS

1: Ecosystem-based Management

Coalition members are engaging in a wide range of ecosystem-based management activities to improve Canada's ability to manage forest as ecosystems. Some members are actively implementing programs for carbon sequestration or water management programs. Others are fighting and controlling exotic and invasive species that can unbalance forest ecosystems. Other activities include creating better tools for resource planning, increasing protected areas and supporting actions that preserve forest biodiversity.

Carbon sequestration is being addressed by a number of organizations; for example:

- Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) has initiated a comprehensive carbon program to sequester carbon, which includes:
  - > Establishing a large 1,300-hectare poplar plantation on company-owned and rented farmland in northeastern Alberta. The company is planning to add 1,200 hectares per year. The long-range plan is to expand the farm to 20,000 hectares by year 2020. It is estimated that this afforestation project will sequester almost 500,000 tonnes of CO_2 by 2020, when the first area planted will be harvested;
  - > Participating in an "avoided deforestation" project in partnership with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, which will evaluate the carbon saved by reducing oil and gas exploration lines on its Forest Management Area from six metres wide to two metres;
  - > Burning wood waste in the pulp mill to produce power instead of using natural gas, which was used previously. Related to this, the company is studying using logging residue through the Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada (FERIC) for additional power;

- Initiating several programs to reduce emissions from its logging fleet, such as bush road stabilization using mill flyash, central tire inflation on its fleet to reduce road maintenance, and a new truck-trailer design that hauls 13 percent more payload. (Transportation is the company's second largest greenhouse gas emitter); and
- Initiating, in its Integrated Land Management area, and partnering with several energy companies on a program that uses tree plantings to reclaim well sites.

- The BIOCAP Canada Foundation and the Sustainable Forest Management Network are participating in an integrated research funding effort on carbon management practices on forested lands and the use of forests for bioenergy. For example, one of their many projects is exploring the tradeoffs among timber, biodiversity, carbon issues and public preferences for old-growth forests in eastern Canada.
- The Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) agreed to make its 2005 conference and annual general meeting a carbon neutral event through a partnership with Tree Canada Foundation. In addition, climate change and the carbon market are featured themes for the conference's technical sessions.
- As leaders in afforestation in Ontario, Conservation Authorities in 2004 worked with approximately 1,200 landowners to plant over 1.4 million trees on 880 hectares of land throughout Southern Ontario.
- The Eastern Ontario Model Forest led the Ontario pilot of the NRCan-CFS's Feasibility Assessment of Afforestation for Carbon Sequestration Initiative, which explored the most effective way to sequester carbon on private lands.
- Manitoba and the Manitoba Forestry Association (the Local Program Delivery Agent for the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' Forest 2020 Plantation Demonstration Assessment) coordinated the planting of 560,000 hybrid poplar on 367 hectares through agreements with 20 landowners.
- NRCan-CFS has signed an agreement with the Trees Ontario Foundation to coordinate local delivery of the Forest 2020 Plantation Demonstration Assessment (PDA) involving delivery partners such as Conservation Ontario and Ontario's Conservation Authorities. Supported by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers, NRCan-CFS is undertaking the Forest 2020 PDA using a variety of similar approaches across the country to encourage the private sector to invest in carbon sequestration through afforestation primarily on private lands planted with fast-growing tree species. The target is to plant 6,000 hectares across Canada by the end of 2005.

- NRCan-CFS also supports and participates in a number of carbon-related programs:
  - > The National Forest Carbon Monitoring, Accounting and Reporting System and the Carbon Budget Model for Canadian Forests were developed and will be used to report on the Kyoto Protocol and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
  - > National Afforestation Inventory database, now available on the Internet, contains spatially referenced afforestation information.
- Saskatchewan obtained approval for the first carbon credit project by Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Trading Pilot (GERT) in 2003 for 6 million tonnes of carbon to be sequestrated by Saskatchewan Environment for SaskPower.
- Trees Ontario Foundation has signed an agreement with Forest Renewal Co-operative Inc. to act as the Local Program Delivery Agent for northwestern Ontario. This program will provide about 33,000 native and non-native tree seedlings to private landowners who are donating 170 hectares of vacant farmland. They will be planting this land in 2005 and will, with NRCan-CFS and Forest 2020, be involved in sequestering carbon over the next 15 years.
- The Western Newfoundland Model Forest has been chosen, along with Lake Abitibi Model Forest, as a pilot site for a joint project between the Canadian Model Forest Network and NRCan-CFS to determine the amount of carbon stored in the nation's forests, as well as to determine the impact forest operations have on current and future carbon stocks.

Exotic and invasive species in the forest also received attention from Coalition members:

- The current status and potential impact of exotic and invasive forest species on the forest resources of the Great Lakes Basin were the focus of a forum held by the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF)—Central Ontario Section in November 2003. In 2003 and 2004, the CIF with the Eastern Ontario Model Forest, and the City of Ottawa, hosted a public forum in Ottawa on invasive species and their status.
- The Foothills Model Forest in Alberta, through collaboration with Jasper National Park and the Canadian Forest Service (CFS), has developed a mountain pine beetle predictive model that will be available throughout the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. This project included the provincial governments of British Columbia and Alberta as well as the federal government.

- NRCan-CFS has supported a number of initiatives:
  - > A National Forest Invasive Species Strategy and Work Plan have been developed to protect and preserve wildlife, fish and forest habitat from exotic and invasive species. The Strategy focuses on prevention, detection, response and recovery in both urban and rural areas.
  - > A multi-agent bio-control approach for dwarf mistletoe in coastal hemlock has been developed.
  - > The emerald ash borer and the Asian longhorn beetle are being studied in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service to better understand the biology of these species in order to control them.
  - > A series of studies on enhanced exotic and invasive species management aim to reduce the use and impact of pesticides on forest ecosystems.
  - > The mountain pine beetle is being studied to provide better information on risk reduction and more effective management decisions. In addition, forest-reliant community impacts and opportunities are being explored, such as using infested wood for bioenergy production.
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Service, NRCan-CFS, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper and Abitibi Consolidated of Canada have isolated a natural virus that successfully controls the population level of the balsam fir sawfly, which has seriously infested western Newfoundland forests. The virus may be licenced for use in 2005.
- Following the discovery of the invasive species—the emerald ash borer and the Asian longhorn beetle—in Southern Ontario in 2002 and 2003, an eradication program was implemented, including a 10-kilometre wide ash tree-free zone. In February 2004, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) announced a $1-million tree planting program for areas affected by both insects. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) subsequently announced its own $6.5-million tree replacement program in spring 2004. The OMNR has invited the CFIA, municipalities, conservation authorities and other stakeholders to collaborate on the tree planting program to ensure an effective and efficient re-greening effort.
- Saskatchewan has:
  - > Established a monitoring program as part of an early detection system for the native elm bark beetle. This is the first such provincial program in Canada;
  - > Been the first province to adapt and use, in an operational program, a science-based Spruce Budworm Decision Support System, developed by NRCan-CFS in New Brunswick. This program helps analyze budworm survey data and supports management decisions;

> Also supported graduate research into developing semiochemical-based systems to monitor and manage the native elm bark beetle. The results will lead to better monitoring and management of this beetle—the vector of Dutch elm disease in the Prairie Region.

The Fur Institute of Canada released its report, "Trappers: Stewards of the Land," which outlines the many stewardship activities trappers regularly undertake in all parts of Canada. Some of these activities include: population studies, habitat restoration, wildlife re-introduction, endangered species protection, environmental monitoring, control of diseased animals and local populations, education and communications.

Water management programs and research were conducted by many Coalition members; for example:

- Alberta's first provincial Canadian Heritage Rivers designation occurred in 2004 when the Clearwater and Christina rivers were added to the national river conservation program. Local stakeholders, supported by the Alberta government, led the move to designate the river by participating in the process and preparing a management plan.
- British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range has published *Wetlands of British Columbia*, which presents information on the ecology and management of wetlands and related ecosystems that land management personnel and landowners need to know in order to recognize, manage and maintain the diversity and ecological values of British Columbia's forests.
- Conservation Authorities have a lead role in developing Ontario's source water protection plans. Nearly 90 percent of Ontario's population live within watersheds managed by Conservation Authorities.
- The Foothills Model Forest in Alberta has compiled the largest database of an identified area in Alberta. This data provide the information needed to perform fish present/absence calculations and is also the basis for a stream classification system based on stream reaches. The Foothills Model Forest is also establishing a stream crossing association, which will standardize crossing inspections and inventory crossings, and prioritize actions for restoration and repair.
- FORREX Forest Research Extension Partnership has formed partnerships with provincial, federal, university and private sector watershed management experts to complete a compendium of watershed management science.

- The Fundy Model Forest and its partners in New Brunswick developed and implemented guidelines for integrated watershed-based management and wildlife conservation practices, which provide indicators at the stand and landscape level. Many guideline components were implemented by industry and the provincial government.
- Lakehead University, along with the University of Alberta, the University of Saskatchewan, Miller Western Forest Products Ltd., Alberta Plywood, Blue Ridge Lumber Inc., Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd., Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. and the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, were awarded the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's Synergy Award for Innovation for launching an innovative, science-based research partnership that links watershed management with forest management planning and takes into account all the stakeholders, including Aboriginal communities.
- The Manitoba Model Forest is conducting water quality and flow monitoring in streams to understand the dynamics and response to short-term disturbances (fire, harvesting) and long-term stresses (climate change).
- NRCan-CFS's Boreal Mixedwood Riparian Management project provides science-based policy support for regulations and guidelines to protect water quality and quantity and biodiversity values within forest riparian zones using innovative harvesting techniques.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, in cooperation with the Provincial Water Resources Division and the Western Newfoundland Model Forest, developed a Forest Water Quality Index model by incorporating past harvesting and road construction data and the relationship with water-quality criteria.
- The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources is a partner in the Pockwock-Bowater Watershed study, which is an on-the-ground, forestry-based, ecosystem research project. One of the outputs from this study will be the development of forest management guidelines for watersheds.
- In 2004-2005, more than 160 Canada-Ontario Agreements (COA) Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem projects, involving 260 partners, were established. The COA projects aim to protect biodiversity through programs such as invasive species and species at risk; restore species and habitats throughout the Great Lakes, their rivers and wetlands; and gain new knowledge about aquatic science and ecosystem health.

- The Sustainable Forest Management Network has looked into the linkage between indicators, watershed management strategies and regulations. One such project looked at the effect of harvesting practices and buffer strip width in boreal riparian forests on water quality and ecological integrity of the nearshore zone (which includes the area from shoreline to the deeper offshore waters) of lakes.
- Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) produced a report on the status of Canada's wetlands and another on the status of Canada's peatlands, accompanied by recommendations for their conservation. WHC has also managed the International Peat Portal Web site, which informs Canadians about peatlands conservation.

The boreal forest has also received attention; for example:

- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) released its vision for Canada's boreal forest, confirming its corporate commitment to boreal conservation, which includes science-based approaches not only for forestry-related activities, but also for other industrial developments. It is also a signatory of the Canadian Boreal Initiative (CBI), a member of the Boreal Leadership Council, and supports the CBI Boreal Framework. DUC is also collaborating with industry, governments and academic institutions on numerous research projects related to boreal hydrology, riparian areas and associated disturbance effects. This information will help develop watershed-based approaches to forest management and improved best management practices as they relate to riparian habitats and the conservation of water and wetland systems.
- The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy of the Boreal Forest Program is examining how to advance conservation in balance with economic activity in Canada's boreal forest through regulatory and fiscal policy reform. The State of the Debate report, to be released in fall 2005, will focus on four themes (providing information for decision-makers; strengthening coordinated planning; encouraging conservation by the private sector; and engaging Aboriginal Peoples) and will make recommendations for action.

Species-at-risk programs are also receiving attention from such members as:

- British Columbia, where legal authority was established for forest- and range-dependent species under the new *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildlife Amendment Act*. About 320 wildlife habitat areas (650,000 hectares) are now dedicated for their management, plus 28 ungulate winter ranges, totaling about 2,250,000 hectares. These ranges include both habitat critical for the winter survival of two ungulate species at risk (caribou and bighorn

sheep) and incidental habitat protection for other threatened or endangered species. Recovery planning under the federal *Species at Risk Act* is now ongoing for about 40 forest- or range-dependent species in the province. The first recovery strategies are near completion and recovery action plans are being developed.

- The **FORREX Forest Research Extension Partnership**. It has completed a spotted owl, mountain caribou and sturgeon species-at-risk synthesis for British Columbia.
- The **Manitoba Model Forest** uses GPS to monitor and survey woodland caribou to identify core use areas, habitat use and other species. An operational strategy to manage the Owl Lake caribou herd is being implemented.
- The **province of Ontario** is giving more protection to four native plants that are at risk of extinction: Western silvery aster, false hop sedge, Skinner's agalinis and Virginia goat's rue. As well, the province is proposing to enhance the conservation of Ontario wolves through the first province-wide wolf strategy and through regulations to limit wolf hunting. Earlier in 2005, the province banned hunting, trapping and chasing wolves and coyotes in and around Algonquin Provincial Park—the largest protected area for the eastern wolf in North America.
- The **Western Newfoundland Model Forest** and its partners have funded pine marten research, worked with government, industry, hunters and the scientific community to promote public awareness about the pine marten, and helped create a pine marten reserve system.

To support ecosystem-based forest management practices:

- Ecosystem Management by Emulating Natural Disturbance (EMEND) is one of several major research initiatives on forest management underway in **Alberta**. It is designed to determine which forest harvest and regenerative practices best maintain biotic communities, spatial patterns of forest structure and functional ecosystem integrity in comparison with mixed-wood landscapes that have originated through wildfire and other inherent natural disturbances. EMEND employs economic and social analyses to evaluate these practices in terms of economical viability, sustainability and social acceptability. In 2005 EMEND was awarded an infrastructure grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) to establish a research facility.
- The **Alberta government** is one of several partners involved in this **Foothills Model Forest** project to emulate natural disturbance over a 70,000-hectare area in order to conserve its rich ecological, economic and social values. It is the first known attempt within Canada to integrate a full suite of natural pattern elements into a single forestry operations plan. In 2003 and 2004,

work focused on developing a 10-year plan that uses natural disturbance research and knowledge to guide forest and land management decisions. Plan implementation and monitoring is now underway.

- Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) is comparing its research on harvest areas to burned areas to ensure that company practices are consistent with natural disturbances. Al-Pac is also pursuing a range of initiatives from biodiversity monitoring, to river water studies (dissolved oxygen studies, sediment oxygen demand), and projects to reduce the industrial footprint on the land base (reducing seismic line widths, forest regeneration on oil and gas leases and species-at-risk studies).
- The Foothills Model Forest in Alberta has done extensive natural disturbance research over the past seven years. This research is now being implemented not only across the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, but also across Alberta and into Saskatchewan. The next step is developing a natural disturbance primer produced through the collaboration of researchers across Canada.
- The Fundy Model Forest and its partners in New Brunswick evaluated the impacts of pre-commercial thinning on bryophyte, vascular plant and vertebrate indicators.
- The Manitoba Model Forest is monitoring harvest trials it designed to emulate natural disturbance patterns at both the landscape and site level, and is comparing their recovery with areas disturbed by natural wildfire. As well, it is developing tools and models to determine the natural range of variability for the forest, fragmentation indices, natural disturbance frequencies and impacts, effects of road densities on future forest conditions, habitat models, wildlife population models, and visualization tools that display model outputs.
- Under the 2002-2007 forest management plans for New Brunswick's Crown lands, licensees must maintain, on the licence, 12 percent of each identified vegetation community, as defined in the 1982 provincial inventory and adjusted for human disturbance.
- The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources has released its Ecological Land Classification (ELC) to help plan and manage sustainable forests. The ELC provides an understanding of ecosystem form and function and its dependent biodiversity.
- The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) is part of the writing team developing new landscape-level guidelines for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Most recently, the OFAH has been discussing the possibility of incorporating angling and hunting socio-economic analyses into forest management plans.

- The Nova Forest Alliance:
  - Is working with partners to develop a guide to the ecological restoration of the Acadian Forest in Nova Scotia;
  - Is working with industry and government to assess the impact of forest practices on water through the Pockwock-Bowater Watershed Study;
  - Is assessing the effects of various riparian widths on breeding birds; and
  - Has also prepared a Forest Ecosystem Classification guide and is incorporating it into Best Management Practices training for forestry contractors and private woodland owners.
- The commission responsible for reviewing the management of Quebec forests, established by the Quebec government, submitted its report outlining the province's five major priorities: managing forests as ecosystems; wood allocation; better planned silviculture treatments; consolidating the wood products industry; and decentralizing forest management in a way that is transparent, informative and encourages participation.
- Saskatchewan completed and had approved the Amisk-Atik Forest Land Use Plan for northeastern Saskatchewan. The plan sets out the future direction for resource use management in this area.
- The Sierra Club of Canada has conducted two case studies on ecosystem-based management. One study developed indicators for assessing the implementation of ecosystem-based forest management. The other study explored what integrated land-use planning looks like under an ecosystem-based management framework. Four Canadian land-use planning processes were evaluated as part of this study.
- The Sustainable Forest Management Network's research in ecosystem-based management over the last two years has included work on natural disturbance management, intensive forest management and innovative zoning, and integrated resource management. For example, among many projects, the Network has made an economic analysis of the effects of wildfire and wildfire management on air quality and researched the use of natural disturbances and natural processes as a template for the sustainable management of boreal forests.

Across the country, the number of protected areas continued to increase; for example:

- The Government of Manitoba has designated six provincial parks since 1999—the newest park is along the Manigotagan River. This 7,432-hectare area will now be protected by a 750-metre boundary along each bank. The

province also created nine new park reserves and designated 21 wildlife management areas. It is also supporting the nomination of a 43,000-square kilometre area spanning the Manitoba-Ontario border as a UNESCO world heritage site.

- New Brunswick passed an act regarding protected areas. The new act enabled 11 protected areas to be created.
- The Northwest Territories' *Protected Areas Strategy 2004-2009 Action Plan* describes what is needed over the next five years to identify, review and establish interim protection for, and to evaluate, a network of protected areas in the Mackenzie Valley.
- From 2003 to 2005, the Ontario government formally added 1.9 million hectares to its protected areas system in the form of 55 provincial parks and 125 conservation reserves. In 2004, it began reviewing Ontario's provincial parks and conservation reserves legislation with a view to their permanent protection and ecological integrity. The first steps included releasing a discussion paper and listening to the views of stakeholders, Aboriginal communities and members of the public. The intent is to introduce legislation in 2005.
- The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters continues to be involved in parks and protected areas reviews.
- Quebec has extended legal protection to nearly 40 exceptional forest ecosystems.
- Saskatchewan continues to build its Representative Areas Network, which now totals 9 percent of the province's land and water base. The target is 12 percent.

In support of better tools for resource planning:

- Alberta has revised the requirements for forest management plans prepared by forest industry companies working on public land in the province. The draft standards include clear and measurable performance expectations for forest companies, requirements for meaningful public participation, measures to safeguard biodiversity resources and a streamlined planning process. As well, the standards adopt the internationally accepted Canadian Standards Association model as its baseline for sustainable forest management planning. Public consultation on the draft standards is underway in summer 2005.
- The British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range, and other provincial government partners, have initiated the *Forest and Range Practices Act* Resource Evaluation Program. This Program is a long-term commitment designed to assess the effectiveness of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* related

to the stewardship of the 11 resource values identified under the Act, and to implement the continuous improvement of forest management in the province.

- The Foothills Model Forest in Alberta is completing resource selection function maps for grizzly bears that will cover about 142,000 square kilometres. These maps and tools will allow resource managers to work effectively with resource plans and to mitigate disturbance to grizzly bear habitat. This work was accomplished through the collaboration of the oil and gas industry, the forest industry, five universities, governments and environmental non-government organizations.
- NRCan-CFS has developed the Canadian Forest Ecosystem Classification project. This project provides a harmonized national classification that benchmarks the structure, vegetation composition and soil characteristics associated with "natural" ecosystems. Associated with this system, Saskatchewan completed an inventory of forest ecosites in 2004 that will form the basis for all ecosystem and forest inventories in the provincial forest. As well, the NRCan-CFS is studying climate change and drought in the forest-prairie interface as an "early warning" indicator of how future conditions may affect the forest.
- The Northwest Territories began a pilot project to assess the value of using 1:40,000 kinematic photography to map forest vegetation and upgrade base map accuracy. The pilot project includes 5,000 square kilometres in the Mackenzie Valley near the Jean Marie River. This could significantly improve the information base for resource analysis for assessing the impacts of development and for resource management decision making. As well, the province is re-constructing an ecological land classification to re-define eco-regions in the Mackenzie Valley. Uses of the classification include wildlife and forest management and identifying representative areas for other purposes.
- The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources has completed the framework document for *Nova Scotia's Code of Forest Practice, A Framework for the Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management*, which presents the principles for implementing sustainable forest management on Crown lands.
- Ontario renewed its class environmental assessment for forest management in 2003. The *Declaration Order Regarding Ontario Ministry of Natural Resource's Class Environmental Assessment Approval for Forest Management on Crown Lands in Ontario* applies to forest management planning, including access, harvest, renewal, maintenance and their planning, as provided for under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994.

The **Alberta** Biodiversity Monitoring Program is under development to monitor changes in biodiversity at broad provincial and regional scales. The Program is designed to collect and evaluate biodiversity data from a network of 1,650 sites that would be sampled every five years. Following technical design, the Program is in the testing and refinement stage and is set for implementation in 2007 and beyond. The project involves government, research institutions, academia and industry.

Saskatchewan has completed its Biodiversity Action Plan that will guide the province's conservation efforts through to 2009.

The **Western Newfoundland Model Forest** and its partners have developed planning tools under the Biodiversity Assessment Project that assess the impact of various forest management scenarios on biodiversity. The program has developed a natural disturbance model for hemlock looper in western Newfoundland and habitat suitability models for pine marten, boreal owl and caribou.

The President of **Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC)** is chairing the Canadian Integrated Landscaped Management Coalition, which aims to improve the decision-making process for managing Canada's natural resources. WHC has also contributed advice on wildlife habitat and biodiversity to the **NRCan-CFS**-led review of Criteria and Indicators. As a manager of the Forest Stewardship Recognition Program, WHC has underlined the accomplishments of over 35 individuals and organizations that have advanced forest-habitat stewardship practices across Canada.

2: Sustainable Forest Communities

The ability and inclusion of forest-based communities to participate in the decisions that directly affect them is improving. Many members of the Coalition are involving the public more and more in forest management planning. Actions are underway to improve access to resources, share forest benefits and support community resilience and capacity-building.

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) continues to involve the public in both long-term and short-term planning through a stakeholder-based Forest Management Taskforce and community consultation meetings.

The British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range, during 2003-2005, as part of the *Forestry Revitalization Act*, 2003, is reallocating 20 percent (about 8.3 million cubic metres) from certain major tenure licence holders. Half of the Crown timber will be reallocated to First Nations, woodlot licences and community forests, while the other half will be added to timber to be sold at auction by BC Timber Sales. Currently, woodlots and community forest agreements together account for about 2 percent of the province's annual harvest. As part of its plan to revitalize the forest economy, the province will increase the timber allocated to small tenures by 1.2 million cubic metres—a significant increase over the volume currently harvested under these forms of tenures. Government has been working with woodlot and community forest stakeholders to discuss how best to administer the expanded program. Once parts of the timber reallocation process are complete, new tenure opportunities will be advertised.

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers is developing a Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy to protect people and communities from an increasing risk of wildfire. The plan will aim not only to reduce wildfire risks, but also to prepare for the eventuality of wildfire by providing the capacity to respond and recover.

The Port Rowan-South Walsingham Heritage Association and **ForestCare Corp.** have together established Canada's First Forestry Station, St. Williams Interpretive Centre. The Centre will help preserve the heritage of Canada's first forestry station and offer interpretation on how the forest industry is managing forests on a sustainable basis. The Centre is scheduled to open in late May 2005.

FORREX Forest Research Extension Partnership, in partnership with the British Columbia Community Forestry Association and the Vancouver Foundation, produced the *Community Forestry Handbook*. This practical "how-to" guide presents the tools and techniques needed for community-based forest management.

In 2004, **Lake Abitibi Model Forest** in Ontario integrated nine individual community impact models into a single regional model—the Regional Community Constellation Impact Model. It is the first of its kind. This Web-based regional model provides a better understanding of the communities' economic interdependence by tracking the means by which positive and negative socio-economic impacts are transmitted throughout the region. It helps these communities provide input into resource management planning processes and allows them to explore their mutual dependencies and the benefits that could be derived from joint actions and coordinated efforts.

The **Manitoba Model Forest** held a series of community workshops, including First Nations communities, to inform the public about climate change and how to apply the FireSmart program in their communities. Community members' observations were also collected on the changing climate. The Model Forest also supported the Winnipeg River Economic Development Round Table, which is developing asset-based community development in four communities and with a number of industrial partners and non-governmental organizations.

In 2004, **Ontario** tabled its *Greenbelt Act, 2004*. Under its *Greenbelt Plan*, permanent agricultural and environmental protection will be given to Ontario's south-central, heavily populated, "Golden Horseshoe" area. The greenbelt supports a diverse range of rural communities, agriculture, tourism, recreation and resource uses; permanently protects the natural systems that sustain ecological and human health; and supports agriculture as the predominant land use.

The **Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources** is a partner in Nova Scotia's Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI), which is a partnership of more than 40 federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations' organizations. The SCI offers community leaders a unique one-stop access point to the knowledge and expertise of representatives across a range of government levels, departments and agencies.

The Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) is a voluntary program, established in 1998 by the Ontario government, which provides a property tax reduction to participating landowners who agree to conserve and manage their forests. The Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) provides tax relief to individual private landowners who agree to protect significant natural heritage values. In 2004, over 10,500 properties were registered in the MFTIP and 14,700 in the CLTIP. In late 2004, the Ontario government announced that it was enhancing these two programs through stronger property tax relief for landowners and conservation groups.

Quebec adopted, in December 2003, major changes to the *Quebec Forest Act* that make it possible to sign management delegation agreements with elected regional officials and make changes to improve verifying and monitoring forest management activities.

In 2004, Saskatchewan granted Mee-Toos Forest Products, which is wholly owned by the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, a five-year licence to harvest timber on more than 1.6 million hectares of provincial forest in northeast Saskatchewan. The increased security of supply for the company will help it develop local capacity and a business development plan, and search for potential industrial partners.

The Sustainable Forest Management Network advanced its research on integrating forest community criteria and indicators for social sustainability, such as making assessments of economic sustainability indicators for First Nations.

In 2003 and 2004, all 184 member local governments in the Union of British Columbia Municipalities endorsed a number of policy positions related to improving forest health as a result of the mountain pine beetle epidemic; seeking an enhanced role for communities in managing the local forest resource; encouraging greater value-added and closer-to-community processing opportunities; enhancing public education about the importance of British Columbia's resource sectors for the economy; and seeking a share of resource revenues.

To help Canadians monitor and take action to protect the environment, Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) has developed a training program and a Web site on "Citizen Science" for collecting data and sharing information. For three years, WHC has developed and managed the Stewardship Canada Portal Web site that disseminates information and facilitates adopting sound stewardship practices on lands including Canada's forests.

The Yukon government conducted lengthy consultations with First Nations, stakeholders and the public to produce an extensive Forest Policy Discussion Paper. This process represents a significant milestone and will be used as a key benchmark for the new legislation and regulations, as well as the forestry best practices being developed.

3: Rights and Participation of Aboriginal Peoples

A significant number of Aboriginal communities are located in Canada's forests. Aboriginal peoples are participating more in forest management and forest-based economic activities. Coalition members are supporting programs, business development and employment opportunities, and granting rights to Aboriginal peoples to manage their forests.

The First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development was approved by the Alberta government on May 16, 2005, and is the first step in the development of a made-in-Alberta consultation process. This process will also include developing ministry-specific consultation guidelines that will seek to provide a stable, orderly and predictable environment for industry and First Nations to work together on land management and resource development. The policy is expected to continue to evolve and will be reviewed in its entirety after four years.

Through a cross-ministry initiative, the Alberta government has committed to a program directed at funding traditional use studies undertaken by a number of Alberta First Nations. Beginning in 2002-2003, Alberta Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Alberta Energy and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development each committed $250,000 per year over three years to help First Nations develop baseline studies of traditional land use. From a First Nations perspective, the studies will improve individual and community well-being and self-reliance. For government, the program is facilitating better relationships with Alberta First Nations, and traditional use data will help create certainty around the government's obligation to consult First Nations on land management issues.

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) works with Aboriginal people through employment and economic development opportunities such as helping create viable businesses. For example, in early 2004, Al-Pac partnered with Heart Lake First Nations and Chipewyan Prairie First Nations to create the harvest company, JHL Forestry Inc. Al-Pac has also established training programs and scholarships for Aboriginal people and consults with Aboriginal communities and trappers on planned harvest activities.

Under British Columbia's *Forestry Revitalization Act*, 2003, about 8 percent of the allowable annual cut is targeted to First Nations that enter into accommodation agreements with the province. Forest and range agreements, introduced in 2003, provide for revenue-sharing and direct-award forest tenure opportunities. These agreements are negotiated where there are unresolved Aboriginal rights and title. First Nations have the opportunity to participate in the forest sector as licensees. The province also continues to work with First Nations to build their forest management and development capacity by:

- Encouraging joint ventures among industry, logging contractors and First Nations;
- Working toward a revitalized forest sector to maximize the value of the opportunities available; and
- Working toward long-term certainty by negotiating treaties or other forms of settlement.

The Foothills Model Forest in Alberta has started a multiple community traditional knowledge and cultural study, which has a designed repository that communities and industries can refer to. The first of its kind in Canada, this program has brought five local Aboriginal communities into partnership with the Model Forest.

In November 2004, the East Side Planning Initiative final report was received after lengthy consultation with First Nations, Métis and non-Aboriginal communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg—one of the largest stands of contiguous boreal forest in North America. The report follows up on Manitoba's commitment to work directly with First Nations in the area to ensure the sustainability of the boreal forest and community economic development opportunities.

The **Manitoba Model Forest** supported efforts to establish and run Traditional Area Advisory Committees in three First Nations communities. These committees are composed of community representatives, such as trappers, fishers, loggers, gatherers, elders and youth. The committees advise their respective Chief and Council regarding resource management. As well, the Model Forest has integrated First Nations participation into some of its other projects through training and employing Aboriginal youth and incorporating traditional knowledge.

In 2003, **Manitoba** created a Sustainable Forestry Unit. The Unit's mandate is to increase value-added processing in the forest sector (including timber and non-timber forest products), foster interaction between primary and secondary industry and increase Aboriginal participation in the forest sector through joint business ownership, resource co-management of resources and community economic development (particularly training and employment). **Manitoba Conservation** is continuing its initiative (with the cooperation of the contracting community) to train First Nations residents and businesses in silviculture contract delivery and administration.

The **National Aboriginal Forest Association** (NAFA) developed an "Aboriginal Criterion with Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management" (March 15, 2005). NAFA intends to work in co-operation with Aboriginal and non-governmental organizations to finalize this set of indicators. NAFA is currently seeking funding and partners to bring the Criterion to Aboriginal communities across the nation in a workshop setting, ultimately developing broad support and endorsement for the final product. This initiative will support Aboriginal community approaches to sustainable forest management practices and certification initiatives, and it may indeed provide a basis for a National Aboriginal Forest Strategy. NAFA is also identifying sources of related baseline information to support the identified indicators to appropriately address Aboriginal issues. NAFA hosted an Aboriginal Boreal Issues Workshop to identify key Aboriginal issues in the boreal forest and designed a series of eight fact sheets that discuss these issues. In February 2005, NAFA hosted a national conference in Kelowna to discuss institutional approaches to Aboriginal forestry.

NRCan-CFS has supported and provided advice on Aboriginal-related programs and initiatives; for example:

a) Renewal of the First Nations Forestry Program in April 2003 for a further five years allows for more opportunities to improve the economic conditions in status First Nations communities with full consideration of the principles of sustainable forest management. The Program assists projects that support sustainable forest management, knowledge and technology transfer, work experience, forest protection and forest-based business planning at the community level. Its accomplishments include:

- The support of 338 projects in 169 communities for the two-year period 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. These projects represent a program contribution of nearly $7.5 million; a First Nations contribution of nearly $15 million; and First Nations partner contributions of nearly $10 million for a total investment of about $32 million. These funds supported 21 business plans, 13 feasibility studies, 22 conferences and field trips, 59 training projects, 48 forest management plans and work experience for about 2,000 First Nations people. These activities are helping First Nations manage their forest resources and position them to participate in local and regional forest development opportunities. Below are some examples:
  - The implementation of the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership Program in New Brunswick launched in September 2004 in partnership with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, the provincial government, the forest industry and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. This $4-million, three-year partnership will create and retain up to 100 sustainable, full-time jobs for Aboriginal people in the forest industry and provide forestry employment-related training and training upgrading for 500 Aboriginal workers.
  - The support of and partnership with the First Nations Junior Ranger Programs in Manitoba and Ontario that have been developed to encourage First Nations youth to complete their high school education and consider natural resources management as a career path.
  - Funding that supports forest fire suppression training opportunities in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Yukon Territory to enable First Nations workers to gain the technical skills necessary to find employment in provincial fire fighting agencies or for communities to secure contracts for fire fighting. The Alexander Forestry Services, Alexander First Nation (Alberta), and M'TIWA-KI Services, Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve (Ontario), are two examples of successful businesses that were established.

- Funding that supports a partnership with the Strategic Labrador Initiative, which aims to build capacity and explore ways to incorporate modern forest science and policy with traditional ecological knowledge of Innu elders to define benchmarks for use in sustainable forest management.

b) NRCan-CFS provided technical forestry support and advice to the federal treaty negotiations office and federal negotiators to support the British Columbia land claims settlement process. As well, it provided advice to and participated in treaty negotiations technical forestry working groups (composed of federal, provincial and First Nations representatives) on treaty-related measures and activities. Advice and assistance were also given to First Nations and Métis groups on other federal forestry programs and access.

The Tli Cho First Nations, Government of the Northwest Territories and Canada signed a land claims and self-government agreement covering the lands of the Tli Cho peoples (Dogrib First Nation). The agreement provides for management over lands owned outright, as well as participation in natural resource management over other lands in the agreement area. The agreement also allows laws made by the Tli Cho government to be applied to forest management and natural resource management.

The Innu Nation and the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources have formed a unique partnership to implement a Strategic Forest Management Plan for District 19, a 2.27-million hectare management area in central Labrador. Although outside its borders, the Western Newfoundland Model Forest Partnership is helping implement the management plan. This project, which is supported by NRCan-CFS, will enhance cross-cultural understanding and traditional knowledge of Newfoundland and Labrador's ecosystems.

The Nova Forest Alliance and its First Nations partners in Nova Scotia are developing a Best Management Practices manual for traditional forest uses, including non-timber forest products and wildlife habitat.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resource's Northern Boreal Initiative (NBI) aims to protect and promote sustainable development of lands and natural resources in Ontario's northern boreal area in partnership with several Northern Ontario First Nations. The goal of the NBI is to provide opportunities for these First Nations to lead community-based, land use planning and forest management, and to foster sustainable economic opportunities in forestry and conservation.

The Ontario government is helping eligible First Nations in the province's far north region carry out land use planning and identify forestry-based economic development opportunities. The government is providing a $2-million grant to the Forestry Futures Trust, which will accept applications from eligible First Nations communities for projects related to land use planning and forestry development.

In late 2003, the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Grand Council Chief Commanda co-signed a Memorandum of Understanding to continue the Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council (AORMC) for a second three-year term. The AORMC has facilitated discussions between Anishinabek Nation stakeholders and the Ministry about such subjects as enforcement policy, forestry, lands, water power management and fish and wildlife.

In June 2003, Saskatchewan signed a Joint Working Agreement with an association of seven First Nations including the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, Wahpeton Dakota Nation, Sturgeon Lake First Nation, Beardy's and Okemasis Willow Cree First Nation, One Arrow First Nation, Muskoday First Nation and the James Smith First Nation. The agreement includes the Fort a La Corne, Torch River, Nisbet and Canwood Island forests. A three-year term supply licence has been granted to the seven First Nations' association for these areas. Negotiations for establishing a long-term forest management agreement are ongoing between the association and the government in order to achieve increased social, economic and environmental benefits from the forests within traditional territories.

The Sustainable Forest Management Network established a research arm within its Aboriginal Program. Through it, Aboriginal issues have been incorporated into other research areas such as integrated resource management, policy and institutions, alternative products, and social and economic criteria and indicators. However, the Network has also undertaken research that has led to developing innovative approaches to traditional knowledge integration (into management decisions) and cooperative resource management.

The Yukon government and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation approved, in 2004, a Strategic Forest Management Plan for the Traditional Territory (about 2 million hectares) as part of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Final Land Claim. The Plan outlines the general goals and criteria for further forest management and development activities, including developing an appropriate approach to the significant spruce bark beetle infestation in the region. Community-based regional forest management planning is also underway in three other regions. The Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council is developing an integrated regional forest management plan that incorporates community and traditional knowledge, for approximately 6 million hectares within the Kaska Traditional Territory in southeastern Yukon.

4: Forest Products Benefits

Coalition members are making major contributions to the forest products sector. These contributions range from developing new techniques and technologies that use the forest resource more sustainably; to establishing programs that help expand market development; and to supporting innovative research.

Based on consultations with government, industry, technical institutions and research institutes, the Alberta Forestry Research Institute (AFRI) supports and directs strategic research investments in three strategic areas of investment: sustainable forest management, enhancing and diversifying the value chain, and new products and processes. Of particular note is its support of the Sustainable Forest Management Network, which undertakes research on topics relative to the Canadian boreal forest. Other topical areas of research include biodiversity management, forest productivity, composite natural fibre products, biorefinery and bioenergy, and design and processes for solid wood products. Collectively, AFRI's investments are directed at supporting the sustainable management of Alberta's natural resources and ensuring economical and social well-being for Albertans.

In 2005, Alberta earmarked $1.8 million over three years to promote forest product and market diversification through a strategic alliance with Forintek, a national wood products research and development organization. The investment will increase the value derived from Alberta's forest resource by providing strategic information and research findings to industry, and by working with the Alberta industry to strengthen industry competitiveness, diversify product lines and extract a higher value from the forest resource. The Western Economic Partnership Agreement is providing funding to assist the Alberta-Forintek alliance.

Federal, provincial and territorial forest ministers, and various industry partners, have established the Canadian Forest Innovation Council to coordinate research and development efforts among government and industry. As a result, new ways to increase competitiveness, market access and product diversification are being used. For example, forest sector investments in science and technology, as well as research and development, are being analyzed. The results will help the sector to even more strategically position itself in relation to other sectors, and to determine the tools and programs capable of accelerating further innovation.

Forintek Canada Corporation, which receives major funding from NRCan-CFS, made significant contributions to the forest products sector:

- Through Forintek, the building code processes in China and Taiwan culminated in both countries accepting North American wood frame construction and Canadian wood species and sizes.
- Working with partners, Forintek is updating two market intelligence reports: one on wood use in residential starts, the other on repair and remodelling.
- Research is also focusing on increasing product recovery from logs, reducing production costs, increasing process efficiency and adding new product attributes.
- In composites manufacturing, Forintek scientists have recently designed a number of innovations that will further reduce production costs and improve process efficiency.
- Forintek also delivers the Value to Wood Technology Transfer program to small and medium-size enterprises, mostly in rural Canada, that are engaged in value-added wood processing.

In March 2004, Manitoba announced its membership in Forintek's Value-Added and Wood Technology Program. The province's wood products manufacturers now have access to industry specialists, technological solutions, latest research and other services offered in the program. Forintek's new northern office in The Pas focuses on helping Aboriginal communities and businesses that wish to enter or expand their participation in the forest industry. As well, Ontario has become a member of Forintek to boost research and development in the forest sector.

NRCan-CFS has:

- Established a $35-million Canada Wood Export Program (Canada Wood) with wood products associations and provincial governments to support offshore market development costs and, thereby, explore and expand new market opportunities. The program also actively supports projects such as market studies, technical training, building and fire code development and product standard activities;
- Supported research aimed at strengthening the competitive position of Canada's forest industry by providing $8.7 million to Canada's three national forest research institutes, Forintek Canada Corp. (Forintek), the Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada (FERIC) and the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada (Paprican); and
- Refined a Carbon Budget Model for Canadian Forests to increase the degree of confidence in determining whether Canada's forest is a net source or sink. This has valuable policy implications for Canada's negotiators in the Kyoto Process. It will help negotiators determine whether Canada's forest should be part of the commitment to the Protocol. As well, NRCan-CFS is partnering with Saskatchewan Environment and the Saskatchewan Research Council to test a regional scale Carbon Budget Model.

In November 2004, the Ontario Minister of Natural Resource's Council on Forest Sector Competitiveness was appointed to provide advice on strengthening Ontario's forest industry. The Council, which includes representatives from municipalities, the forest industry and First Nations, made its recommendations in the *Final Report*, which was submitted to the Minister in May 2005. The recommendations address wood supply, delivered wood costs, energy, the climate of investment and working together.

In June 2004, the Ontario government unveiled its Provincial Wood Supply Strategy. The Strategy compares supply predictions across northern and central Ontario to present levels of industrial use, and identifies wood supply issues and challenges. The Strategy also prescribes a range of actions to manage Ontario's wood supply involving the Ministry of Natural Resources, the forest industry and forest management planning teams, which include local citizens and First Nations peoples.

The Nova Forest Alliance is developing a spruce beetle prediction model to use in hurricane-damaged forest stands in Nova Scotia.

In summer 2004, the Public Forest Council consulted Prince Edward Island landowners and the ground hemlock *(Taxus canadensis)* harvest and processing industries about theft, trespass and the sustainable harvest of wild ground hemlock. The Council issued a report that identified strategies for conserving this unique forest shrub. The government responded by establishing a task force to implement the Council's recommendations.

The Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada (Paprican) has developed a number of new techniques and technologies focusing on better use of the forest resource:

- A series of Pinch analysis workshops have identified heat-recovery projects that would deliver nearly $1 million per mill for both kraft and mechanical pulping mills.
- Techniques for optimizing recovery boilers have been extended to power boilers, which provide significant savings; for example, up to a 75 percent increase in hourly steam flow from hog fuel.
- A unique new pilot scale system for testing paper rolls addresses misregistration, baggy edges, wandering and runnability, which are all common problems faced by printers.
- New technology has been developed for neutral sulphite de-inking, which can significantly reduce de-inking chemical costs while improving the quality of the de-inked pulp.
- The polysulphide anthraquinone process, successfully implemented at the mill level, has increased fibre yield ranging from 2.8 percent to 4.1 percent.

The Sustainable Forest Management Network's research has linked investigation on forest products to managing forests. This research included:

- Assessing the impacts of forest certification on Canadian value-added wood products businesses;
- Modelling for developing and evaluating land use and log allocation planning scenarios; and
- Exploring innovative methods for chain of custody tracking of certified forest products.

5: Knowledge and Innovation for Competitiveness and Sustainability

Science, innovation and education are key factors in keeping forest use sustainable and the Canadian forest sector competitive in world markets. Coalition members have offered special courses, workshops and research programs to advance Canada's sustainable forest management.

Throughout Canada, efforts are underway to develop effective and efficient governance models for aligning forest science capacity with forest sector needs and priorities. In British Columbia, the Forest Genetics Council is regarded as a long-standing, successful partnership between governments, industry and universities in gene resource management, which effectively aligned tree breeding and applied genetics research with Select seed production targets and seed orchard development. In 2003, a Forest Science Board was appointed to guide and champion the Forest Science Program component of the B.C. Forest Investment Account. The program funds forest science and extension activities to increase knowledge and deliver findings to policy developers, field managers and practitioners. Board members included users and providers of scientific knowledge drawn from industry, governments and the forest science community. The Board has prepared a Strategic Plan, 2004-2008 and annual business plans.

Awards and recognition for future and current forest practitioners are part of Coalition members' programs. For example, the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) presented 680 silver forestry rings, as a welcome to the profession, to students of CIF-recognized baccalaureate and technical diploma programs across Canada in 2004. In addition, the CIF recognized excellence in Canadian forestry by awarding the following national forestry awards:

- Canadian Forestry Achievement Award
- Canadian Forestry Scientific Achievement Award
- International Forestry Achievement Award
- James M. Kitz Award

The CIF—Central Ontario Section, in early 2004, presented silver rings and a number of awards recognizing excellence in forestry and their achievements and contributions to forestry students at the Collège Boréal in Sudbury and at the Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology at Sault Ste. Marie.

Support for forest practitioners is offered through field trips, educational activities, legislation, etc. For example:

- The CIF—Ottawa Valley Section has enhanced the skills and knowledge of forest practitioners through numerous field trips and events that focused on increasing private woodlot certification, balancing multiple forest values and dealing with invasive and exotic species.
- The CIF—Saskatchewan Section is leading the process for developing Professional Forestry Practitioner legislation for Saskatchewan.
- The College of Alberta Professional Foresters is developing a new Continuing Competence Program that will be implemented in 2007. The Program will have minimum requirements that regulated members (RPF or FIT) must maintain on a three-year basis. The College, along with other partners, has also helped fund the Forestry Commons Web site, which is hosted by the University of Alberta Faculty of Extension. This Web site helps foresters and forestry practitioners prepare for the College's jurisprudence exam and also informs forestry practitioners about provincial policy and forestry management legislation.
- The Nova Forest Alliance in Nova Scotia is providing forest management training modules to industry and private landowners, and is developing a Landowner Decision Support Tool.

The Forestry Research Partnership, involving NRCan-CFS, Tembec Inc., Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Ecology Centre, aims to increase sustainable fibre supply to Ontario industry while maintaining environmental integrity.

Education and raising public awareness are important elements in the forest sector's ongoing outreach:

- Alberta's Aboriginal Junior Forest Ranger Program gives high-school students the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities that focus on forest protection and natural resource management. In addition to hands-on work, the Program provides opportunities to build an understanding of a number of traditional activities like medicine harvesting. In its third year of operation in 2005, the Program grew to include seven crews and employed 55 Aboriginal youth in projects such as FireSmart-related initiatives around communities to reduce the risk of wildfires, trail building, tree planting and traditional Aboriginal activities that enhance cultural awareness.
- The Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF), as a member of the Canadian Federation of Professional Foresters Associations, helps set standards of accreditation used to evaluate post-secondary forestry schools. The CIF also provides funding and representation on the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board to conduct the evaluations. The Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board evaluated the forestry programs in two Canadian schools in 2004. As well, the CIF encourages its 2,800 members to participate in its Continuing Forestry Education certificate program and other continuing education opportunities given in CIF sections, provincial and national conferences, workshops and courses.
- The CIF—Central Ontario Section is working to have its educational programs accredited under the continuing educational programs of the CIF, Ontario Professional Foresters Association and Society of American Foresters.
- The Foothills Model Forest in Alberta has implemented a successful Geographic Information Systems day with five classes of grade 8 students. The success of this program has gone beyond the boundaries of the Model Forest—requests are coming in for the program from large centres such as Edmonton and Calgary. Also in 2004, the Model Forest, working with Jasper National Park, provided an interpretive program that informed over 3,500 park visitors about fisheries, watersheds and grizzly bears in the context of sustainable forest management.
- The Forestry Research Partnership, involving NRCan-CFS, Tembec Inc., Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Ecology Centre, has supported continuing the Northeastern Ontario Teacher Tour, which is an annual week-long, hands-on learning experience that provides 40 teachers with direct knowledge of forest management principles and practices that they can incorporate into their teaching programs.

- FORREX Forest Research Extension Partnership established and maintains the *BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management*, the Natural Resources Information Network and seven extension programs reflecting National Forest Strategy themes.
- Five hundred grade 4, 11 and 12 students attended day-long sessions given by the Fundy Model Forest on ecosystems and ecosystem management in New Brunswick. The Model Forest's Forestry Institute provides materials that high school teachers can use to integrate resource-based curriculum, especially information on sustainable forest management, into their classrooms. The Institute also provides information on post-secondary education and careers in forestry.
- Campsite 24, an interactive feature on Ontario Parks' Web site, features interactive games and activities that make it fun for young people to learn about environmental protection, plants and wildlife, and Ontario's provincial parks. It is also a handy resource for teachers, complete with ready-to-print lesson plans, activity sheets and background information—all based on Ontario's curriculum guidelines for grades 2 to 6.

The Faculty of Forestry and the Forest Environment at Lakehead University helped develop the Legacy Forest in Ontario to facilitate research in sustainable forest management. The forest encompasses all of Bowater's Dog River-Matawin Forest and the adjacent Quetico Park. The Faculty is administering the Living Legacy Research Program and is distributing the remaining funds from the Living Legacy Trust to forest research. The university has developed a PhD degree in forest sciences that will start September 2005.

In 2004, the Lake Abitibi Model Forest in Ontario, as a direct result of its cross-border research partnership with the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, co-hosted the workshop, "Partial Cutting in the Eastern Boreal Forest: Current Knowledge and Perspectives." The Model Forest is also supporting a number of ongoing cross-border research projects and five PhD candidates doing research related to partial harvesting in the region.

The Sustainable Forest Management Network's knowledge exchange and technology extension program promotes the transfer and implementation of new information and research results to Network partners and other interested parties. A recent example of such projects was the development of sustainable forest management frameworks for Alberta Pacific Forest Industries, Louisiana-Pacific Canada, Riverside Forest Products, Tolko AB, Tembec and the Little Red River Tall Cree Nation. As well, the Network also focuses on upgrading and capacity building for research assistants. From 2002 to 2004, 155 masters students, 84 PhD students, 28 post-doctoral fellows, 89 technicians, 27 research associates and 93 undergraduates have worked on Network-funded research projects.

6: The Urban Forest and Public Engagement in Sustainability

Promoting awareness of the issues affecting our urban forests is an important activity of many Coalition members. For example, some member governments are passing legislation to better protect urban forests, and non-governmental organizations are leading public awareness campaigns.

Important steps are being taken to better protect and manage Canada's urban forests. These include:

- The forming of the Canadian Urban Forest Network—an organization representing municipalities, academics and non-governmental organizations to create awareness about the serious plight of trees in our cities and towns. In its first year, the Network:
  - > Completed the first version of the *National Urban Forest Strategy*, which is posted on the Tree Canada Foundation Web site; and
  - > Expanded the CANUFNET Internet list to over 250 members, which provides technical information and updates to the urban forest community.
- The Eastern Ontario Model Forest has continued to strengthen the Eastern Ontario Urban Forest Network, which helps communities maintain and enhance their urban forests by sharing best practices and techniques. The Model Forest has also developed and delivered the Woodland Valuation System, which is an important tool to help municipalities protect ecologically important forested areas in their official plans.

- NRCan-CFS has supported collecting and disseminating urban forest information and pursuing initiatives; for example:
  - The NRCan-CFS's Plant Hardiness Project continues to engage Canadians across the country in assessing the current and potential distribution of trees now and under a changing climate. The system allows the public to enter local data to create individual species hardiness maps, which will better correspond to local community conditions and information requirements.
  - *The Forests of Canada* was published and then presented at the XII World Forestry Congress, held in Québec City in September 2003. The book describes and contrasts the landscape qualities and ecological composition of Canada's forests including those in urban areas. The specific challenges and practices relevant to urban forests and forestry are outlined in one chapter.
  - NRCan-CFS collaborates in an international effort to enable greater coordination of science and quarantine responses to deal with alien and invasive species around the world. NRCan-CFS, as a partner in the National Invasive Species Strategy, is providing forest-related expertise and developing a strategic plan for the Canadian forest sector. NRCan-CFS continues to advise and cooperate with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on alien and invasive species.
  - The Science in the Centres program has been established to put science in front of literally hundreds of thousands of people, particularly youth, in centres such as Science North in Sudbury, the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto and the Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa.
- The Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC) held its 2003 annual general meeting under the theme "Canada's Urban Forest in Crisis" to alert members and the public about the threats to urban trees and forests. The OUFC also actively lobbied local and provincial officials about the need to protect city trees as well as to protect heritage trees.

- The Government of Saskatchewan established its new Dutch elm disease regulations with respect to controlling the disease, resulting in an expanded pruning ban period, certification of commercial pruners and the appointment of municipal inspectors.
- The Tree Canada Foundation continues to show leadership in urban forests by:
  - > Facilitating the 6th Canadian Urban Forest Conference in 2004 in Kelowna, British Columbia, and planning the seventh conference in Québec City in October 2006;
  - > Planning with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for the *Best Management Practices* manual for Canada's urban forests and the "Model Tree Bylaw" for Canadian municipalities;
  - > Facilitating the passing of six municipal resolutions including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' resolution supporting the "Conservation of Urban Forests";
  - > Presenting 35 Canadian communities with the Green Streets Canada award for their efforts in urban forestry in 2004-2005 and another 14 for innovative urban forestry practices in 2005-2006 under the Green Streets Canada program in conjunction with NRCan-CFS. Since 1994, 280 communities have been "greened," 70 million trees have been planted and over 300 schoolyards have been "regreened." A few examples of the winning community projects are:
    - Urban tree inventories; development of a heritage tree program; large-scale naturalization of suburban yards; development of an urban forest stewardship program; development of an urban demonstration forest; various ecosystem improvement projects; and a wide range of public awareness campaigns.
- The University of Toronto Faculty of Forestry distributed a survey of urban forest practices and trends to all Canadian municipalities.

Raising public awareness over urban forest issues is a major preoccupation of most Coalition members; examples include:

- The Barrett Lumber Company of Nova Scotia is keeping the ideals of public use of forests high. Since 1978, its neighbours have been given permission to use the company's lands for recreational purposes, including camping, if they sign and follow the rules of an agreement that outlines the environmentally responsible treatment of the forest. Since 2002, the company has also required that any operator of an off-highway vehicle, who wishes to enjoy Barrett's forests, must also sign a similar agreement of environmentally responsible behaviour while on its lands.
- The Canadian Forestry Association (CFA) continues its outreach to educators across Canada through:
  - > Canada's Forest Teaching Kit Program. In 2005, the sixth in the series of teaching kits was entitled *Canada's Forests and Wetlands, Our Natural Water Filters*, reflecting the CFA's 2005 theme—forests and wetlands as water filters; and
  - > Awareness programs such as Envirothon, Forest Capital of Canada and the fire messaging in Canada through Smokey Bear.
- The Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) annually receives donations to fund projects across Canada to create an awareness of forests and forestry. This is carried out through the Forestry Awareness in Canada Trust, CIF's not-for-profit charitable organization. As well, CIF encourages and supports youth involvement in forestry in many ways: from providing funding for them to attend various congresses and conventions; to encouraging them to enter poster presentations on environmental and forest stewardship themes at CIF conferences; and, in 2005, to presenting workshops at post-secondary institutions to increase their knowledge about forestry and to encourage youth to consider forestry as a career.
- The CIF—Ottawa Valley Section has raised public awareness about the forest through activities on the Rideau Canal during Ottawa's Winterlude festival, regional science fairs and National Forest Week.

- The Fundy Model Forest's communication strategy includes publications, events, workshops, posters, a Web site and technology transfer and focuses on increasing the implementation of sustainable forest management in the Model Forest, New Brunswick and beyond.
- The Manitoba Model Forest trains students from three local high schools to collect environmental data in forests of different ages and origins. As well, the Model Forest, in cooperation with Manitoba Education, produced a Grade 10 Science Unit Curriculum about Sustainable Forests. The curriculum has been distributed across Manitoba and introduced to teachers at workshops.
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is the major sponsor of the Tree Canada Foundation, including the Green Streets Canada program. In 2005, NRCan proceeded with plans to renew its funding agreement with the Tree Canada Foundation for an additional two years. The Green Streets Canada program is being revamped to fund projects that encourage adopting innovative best management practices and policies in municipal forest management.
  > In 2004-2005, NRCan provided funding to the Tree Canada Foundation, including support for the Green Canada's Schoolyards and Green Streets Programs. To help raise public awareness around trees and urban forests, funding was also provided to update the Foundation's public service announcements to make them ready to be broadcast. Every school board in Canada received copies of an educational poster and a pamphlet on the benefits of greening Canada's schoolyards, both of which were funded by NRCan.
- Ontario's Conservation Authorities provide a number of watershed stewardship and extension services to landowners including tree and shrub planting, tree and shrub sales, site planning, site assessment and monitoring.

- The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources through the Ontario Stewardship Program has:
  - > Developed innovative community tree planting projects such as using donated forest products from local forest industries to help pay for trees for landowners; engaging local disabled youth in long-term agreements in tree planting; and partnering with local municipalities in an extensive Forest 2020 model. From 2003 to 2005, these projects have resulted in planting over 1.7 million trees;
  - > Facilitated forming eight new woodlot owner associations and injected more than $7 million into community reforestation, demonstration sites, and awareness and education initiatives in the settled landscapes of Ontario;
  - > Coordinated and implemented over 450 forest-focused initiatives of which 186 are reforestation projects;
  - > Held over 85 workshops for woodlot owners; and
  - > Carried out 964 natural resource-based projects since 2003. In this time, 17,000 volunteers and over 2,600 partners have been educated and have contributed to their respective communities.
- As part of Youth Opportunities Ontario Strategy, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is creating more than 2,000 jobs for young people in 2005. Through its six youth employment programs—Ontario Rangers, Ontario Stewardship Rangers Program, Internship Program, Co-op Program, Summer Experience Program, and Ontario/Québec Exchange Program—the ministry recruits high school, college and university students, as well as recent graduates for summer and internship positions in natural resource management.
- The Ontario Forestry Association's (OFA) Envirothon program, which engages and educates over 5,000 youth annually, was coordinated with the help of the Ontario Stewardship Program, which received the OFA's Susan Wiecek Forestry Education Award for "the programs outstanding contribution to forestry education in Ontario."

- In 2004, Prince Edward Island began creating a new Forest Policy. As part of this process, the government asked the Public Forest Council to host a series of public forums during winter 2005 to encourage the public to share their ideas about PEI's forest resources, how they think their ideas can be realized, and what they believe the government's role should be for public and private forest lands.
- The Sustainable Forest Management Network participated in various public awareness projects such as examining corporate and government efforts to integrate social values into ecosystem management for a Crown licence in Newfoundland.
- Tree Canada Foundation continued to engage the public by:
  - > Launching, in conjunction with Pegasus Publishing, Canada's first magazine dedicated to trees, forests and the issues surrounding them—*Canadian Trees*;
  - > Releasing seven public service announcements on Canada's trees and forests on television and radio;
  - > Distributing to every school board in Canada a brochure on the benefits of schoolyard greening along with an extensive description of the many science Web-based links available from NRCan-CFS; and
  - > Launching new educational parts of its Web site including *Trees in Canada* and *The Forests of Canada*.

Since 2003, 25 Urban Stewardship Awards of Excellence have been awarded by Wildlife Habitat Canada to Canadians who have implemented innovative conservation practices for urban and other wildlife habitats.

7: Private Woodlots' Contribution to Sustainability

Coalition members, through partnerships among woodlot owners, their associations, governments, industry and other agencies, are continuing the drive to include more owners in sustainable private forestry management. Awareness and outreach programs have played a significant role in this effort.

Resource management planning has been delivered to many woodlot owners:

- The Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners created an action plan to implement the measures to be taken under National Forest Strategy Theme 7. All the planned actions should contribute to holding a private woodlot owners' National Forum for developing Canadian woodlots.
- The Farm Woodlot Association of Saskatchewan promotes the sustainable management of woodlots located in the agricultural sector of the province. The Association offers woodlot owners management planning assistance on a fee-for-service basis, focusing on the management goals of the landowner and the ecological feasibility of those goals.
- Fundy Model Forest and its partners in New Brunswick have developed watershed-based woodlot management planning that is being implemented in the Pollett River Watershed. Woodlot owners are encouraged to consider issues such as biodiversity conservation and the impacts of forestry activities beyond their properties and to observe how their decisions are connected to the decisions others make on these issues. As part of the project, a contract was negotiated with Fundy National Park to pay a premium for firewood generated and sold to the park by local owners and contractors who sustainably manage their land.
- The Nova Forest Alliance has developed a Woodland Opportunities Planning approach for small private landowners in Nova Scotia.

- The Manitoba Forestry Association under terms of an annual grant from Manitoba Conservation's Sustainable Development Innovations Fund is delivering an expanded woodlot program in southern Manitoba. Program components include developing and preparing management plans by technical staff (including site inspections, monitoring and follow-up), public and landowner education and partnerships with other organizations such as the Manitoba Woodlot Association, the Manitoba Christmas Tree Growers Association and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) supports a woodlot program that helps landowners develop a long-term management plan for harvesting trees on farm woodlots. As well, through its Poplar Farming Program, Al-Pac enters into a 20-year lease agreement with local landowners to grow poplar trees that will help supply the mill's future fibre needs. This initiative preserves a portion of natural forest, provides additional income for landowners and contributes to reducing greenhouse gas through carbon sequestration.

For private woodlot land combined with British Columbia Crown lands (a B.C. Crown woodlot licence), the British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range, during 2003-2005, developed and refined the Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation (WLPPR) as part of the new *Forest and Range Act*. This regulation is intended to streamline the preparation and approval process for both woodlot licence holders and the Ministry. It applies to about 90,600 hectares of private land. Several hundred landowners have received training over the past two years. As well, an expansion of the woodlot licence program is planned. The Private Forest Landowners' Association updated its *Handbook of Best Management Practices* in June 2005.

The Farm Woodlot Association of Saskatchewan, between 2003 and 2005, helped woodlot owners plant about 74,000 native trees in partnership with Saskatchewan Environment.

Since 2003, the Fundy Model Forest has been holding three-day Woodlot Owner Certification Training programs in New Brunswick that train and inform participants about sustainable forest management. The course is geared to eventually certifying portions of private woodlots. The Model Forest has also developed and implemented incentives for providing environmental services from private woodlots.

The Woodlot Association of Alberta (WAA) has members in all regions of private forest lands in Alberta. The WAA is a partner in the new province-wide Woodlot Extension Program (WEP). As part of the WEP, the WAA manages 10 Woodlot Management Demonstration Sites. As well, in 2003, the WAA:

- Developed and adopted a Code of Practice for woodlot management;
- Hosted two workshops on the Sustainable Woodlot Management Initiative; and
- Published *Western Farm and Forest* (previously *Western Woodlot Conservationist*), which promotes sustainable woodlot management.

Awareness raising and outreach were part of the initiatives in Canada's woodlots:

- Alberta's Woodlot Extension Program (WEP), begun in 2004, is a province-wide, joint venture between government, industry, conservation agencies, such as Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the Woodlot Association of Alberta (WAA). The program brings awareness and information to woodlot owners interested in sustainable woodlot management and supports landowners, land managers and others who influence land use practices. The WEP:
  - > Addresses the issue of forest depletion in agricultural areas;
  - > Supports enhanced wildlife habitat, the long-term preservation of soil and water quality, increased recreational opportunities, and the development of a wide range of forest products and services;
  - > Supports workshops and night information sessions on best management practices, value-added woodlot products, climate change, agroforestry, riparian area management and integrated farm and woodlot resources planning;
  - > Funds the implementation of demonstration sites on private land; and
  - > Helps organize demonstration tours and woodlot stewardship planning sessions for interested landowners.
- The CIF—Central Ontario Section and the Algoma Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association co-hosted two woodlot tours for members. For example, the 2003 tour was held in the Cloudslee Forest, 597 hectares of privately owned forest land that has been managed sustainably for over 10 years in partnership with two forest companies.
- The Eastern Ontario Model Forest has actively participated in the Canadian Model Forest Network's Private Woodlot Strategic Initiative. As well, the Model Forest hosted the National Woodlot Conference "Meeting the Stewardship Challenge." The report delivered at this conference is an important first step in understanding how woodlot owners are currently providing environmental services from their woodlots.

- The Manitoba Model Forest has been conducting private woodlot owner education and outreach through bus tours, field days, skills-based workshops and information seminars. The Model Forest is developing a private woodlot as a model and demonstration of sustainable forest management practices. It has also developed a database to store information about managed woodlots; a Best Management Practices Manual for Private Woodlots in Manitoba; and a standard management planning system for Manitoba's private woodlots.
- The Nova Forest Alliance in Nova Scotia has developed an interactive Web site *(www.woodlotinfoshop.ca)*. It also hosts a series of woodland owner conferences across the province.
- As part of its program to improve access to information on conservation Best Practices, Wildlife Habitat Canada has developed a Web site on the Stewardship Canada Portal for private woodlot owners.

Prince Edward Island's woodlot activities are far-ranging; for example:

- In 2004, four Prince Edward Island landowners successfully attained third-party certification from the Forest Stewardship Council for their private forest lands. In turn, these landowners have given workshops to show other landowners how they can manage their forests to restore forest health while creating a sustainable income.
- The Woodlot Stewards Co-op is a woodlot owner co-op that includes 78 PEI woodlot members who own over 100 woodlots across the province. Its work includes:
  - > Harvest tendering and supervision, silviculture treatments and information workshops; for example, on hardwood management, forest restoration and wildlife enhancement and chainsaw maintenance;
  - > Preparation of management plans for all member woodlots by Co-op technicians;
  - > Actively developing sustainable harvesting practices with local contractors; and
  - > A trial harvest of post-harvest biomass for chipping and use in the Charlottetown district heating system, which heats all the major buildings in the city's core area.
- The Prince Edward Island Nature Trust is beginning to develop 14 sites to demonstrate to landowners, who own over 80 percent of the province's woodlands, how to manage riparian zones. Many of PEI's riparian zones are currently in agriculture. Through these sites, landowners will be:
  - > Informed about the benefits, including aesthetic, recreational and economic, of this style of management;

> Encouraged to restore the Acadian Forest community, taking into account the entire ecosystem; and
> Encouraged to selectively harvest and replant in a manner that will gradually restore a sustainable Acadian Forest community.

Quebec has been very active in woodlot management and outreach:

- Seventeen Regional Private Forest Development agencies are active in the province of Quebec. They administer a cash incentives and technical support Forest Management Program for woodlot owners, which is jointly funded by the provincial government and by industry. The program provides up to 80 percent of the cost of a wide array of silvicultural treatments. Most agencies also provide annual training and extension programs for woodlot owners, often with the help of 14 provincial Wood Marketing Boards active in the province. Some agencies also promote wildlife habitat management and protection of special value forests.
- The Federation des producteurs de bois has published an illustrated *Best Management Practices Field Guide* in 2003.
- La Fondation de la Faune du Quebec has published a series of field guides for managing wildlife habitat on private woodlots.
- The provincial government also provides a Land Tax Rebate Program for woodlot owners who carry out recognized forest management operations and a Financing Program to help woodlot owners buy land and equipment. Nearly 28,000 woodlot owners have joined the Provincial Registry of Woodlots, which gives them access to these programs. All of them hold a woodlot management plan.
- Some of the Wood Marketing Boards are actively developing certification programs to help woodlot owners eventually achieve third-party certification. One of them, the Syndicat des producteurs de bois du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, has achieved an ISO 14000 certification in 2005. One of the 45 Group Ventures of the province, le Groupement forestier de l'Est-du-Lac-Temiscouata has received a Forest Stewardship Council certification for the 27,000 hectares held by its shareholders.
- The Foret modele du Bas-Saint-Laurent partners over the years have developed a wide range of tools to help woodlot owners succeed in sustainably managing their woodlots and in tackling landscape issues. They are now experimenting with two formulas, one based on the group venture model and the other one based on a tenant model.

8: Reporting and Accountability

Improved databases and greater availability of information is helping create better-quality reporting, communicate the value of the forest and promote the accountability of the forest sector. To this end, Coalition members are working to sustainable forest management certification, reporting on a variety of forest-related criteria and indicators and instituting a number of sustainable management action plans.

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) has begun the process of Forest Stewardship Council certification.

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers is providing national leadership in measuring and reporting on sustainable forest management in Canada by:

- Revising their framework of Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in 2003, and using the revised framework to produce a report to be released in September 2005. Canada's revision of its framework had broad public involvement, and engaged a broad array of representatives from various sectors of society as well as technical experts, including the Sustainable Forest Management Network; and
- Reorganizing the publicly accessible National Forest Information System *(http://nfis.org)*, which provides the most comprehensive information available on Canada's forest ecosystems.

The Forest Practices Initiative of Manitoba Conservation works in a consensus-seeking manner to develop forest practice guidebooks. One of the primary goals of the Forest Practices Initiative is to advance best practices through guidelines for sustainable forest management activities in Manitoba. Recommendations are included for planning, implementation, monitoring and enforcing the specific forest practice in question. Before publication, each guidebook undergoes a 60-day public review period. Forest practice guidebooks will be continuously monitored and appropriately amended when necessary. Published guidebooks include: *Brush Disposal Guidebook* (March 2005), *Forestry Road Management*

(January 2005), *Protection of Softwood Understory in Mixed Wood and Hardwood Forests* (2003) and *Pre-harvest Surveys* (2003). The *Forest Practices Guidebook for Riparian Management Zones* is currently being developed.

Working with Tembec Industries—Pine Falls Division, the Manitoba Model Forest annually publishes a report on Local Level Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management.

The National Aboriginal Forestry Association has:

- Supported First Nations that are dealing with certification standards and relays developments concerning Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification processes to them;
- Organized meetings for key Aboriginal representatives across Canada to discuss a number of proposed changes to FSC's international standards related to Labelling, Chain of Custody and Controlled Wood;
- Presented a submission to FSC International detailing concerns about the Chain of Custody and Controlled Wood Standards; and
- Made a presentation on Aboriginal issues and certification at the FSC International conference in 2004.

NRCan-CFS is an active member of the Montréal Process Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests *(http://www.mpci.org)*. In 2005, the Working Group will review and revise the indicators to ensure that they continue to reflect realities in the 12 member countries. This review will be completed by early 2006.

In February 2002, New Brunswick became the first jurisdiction in Canada to require licensee and sub-licensee forestry operations on Crown lands to have an Environmental Management System (ISO 14001) certification and a Sustainable Forest Management System (Forest Stewardship Council, Canadian Standards Association or Sustainable Forestry Initiative) certification. Since then, all licensees and operating sub-licensees have met the Minister's requirements.

The Northwest Territories recently produced its *Northwest Territories Biodiversity Action Plan: Major Initiatives on Biodiversity*, which lists current activities related to the territories' biodiversity. The Plan will review each goal of the *Canadian Biodiversity Strategy* from the NWT perspective.

The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources is developing a Nova Scotia Biodiversity Strategy, which will include issues, approaches and actions, and a summary of the province's biological resources.

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy sets out a plan in which all Ontarians, communities and sectors of society can play an important role in conserving Ontario's biodiversity. The Strategy presents a vision for the future, goals and principles, and outlines threats and opportunities faced in Ontario. The Strategy also provides a

series of strategic directions supported by recommended actions for 2005-2010. It concludes with a discussion about implementation, which will be led by the newly established Ontario Biodiversity Council.

In 2004, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources released the *Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario* to manage wildfires on Ontario's 107 million hectares of Crown and private lands. A set of fire management performance measures and targets will be reported on annually to develop a report on fire management activities in Ontario. The fire management program will maintain a database of fire history archives for Ontario and make this database available to other resource managers in other program areas.

The governments of Ontario and British Columbia have agreed to work together to improve the way information about both provinces' land and natural resources is managed. The partnership will save both governments time and money, and provide fast and easy access for government staff and partners to needed information.

Saskatchewan has:

- Maintained ISO 14001 certification for its Environmental Management System, following a recent, one-year follow-up audit. ISO 14001 makes the forestry program accountable for its goals and action plans. This is the first province-wide government program in the country to achieve this certification;
- Fully implemented the field portion of the forest management effects monitoring program in 2003. The program tracks the effects of forest management activities on the long-term health of the forest ecosystem;
- Published its new forest ecosystem inventory standards in July 2004. These new forest inventory standards (for example, the Saskatchewan Forest Vegetation Inventory) represent an advancement in the quality and quantity of forest ecosystem information collected in the province. The standards were developed by a large cooperative team including forest industry, parks, consulting and Saskatchewan Environment representatives and was subject to a public review; and
- Completed a comprehensive satellite image-based classification for its provincial forests. This is directly contributing to establishing the National Forest Inventory and Earth Observation for Sustainable Development of Forests for Saskatchewan.

The Sustainable Forest Management Network promotes and supports research on policy analysis, such as a review of the tenure system. This research will provide the means for generating proposals for new tenure arrangements, institutional change and strategies for implementation.

Wildlife Habitat Canada conducted a survey on the attitudes of rural landowners toward stewardship and conservation in order to help design policies and programs to facilitate improved stewardship practices and to remove barriers to conservation.

MOVING FORWARD: 2005 AND BEYOND

The progress made in implementing the National Forest Strategy is encouraging. The Coalition's ongoing efforts, with the active support and involvement of the broad forest community, will ensure Canada remains a progressive and responsible forest nation.

2005

- Web-based information reporting system established.

2006

- National Forest Strategy Coalition annual meeting/ symposium.
- Progress report initiated.
- Approach to develop a successor to National Forest Strategy initiated.

2007

- National Forest Strategy Coalition annual meeting.
- Progress report released.
- Independent evaluation report initiated.

2008

- Independent evaluation report released.
- National Forest Strategy Coalition annual meeting and culmination.
- Successor to National Forest Strategy unveiled.
- National Forest Congress.

2009

- XIII World Forestry Congress.

CANADA: A FOREST NATION

Forested landscapes define Canada. Much of our original forest remains today. Covering nearly half of the country, the forest is fundamental to our environment, economy, culture, traditions and history—and to our future. It is both a public good and private concern: 93 percent is publicly owned and 7 percent belongs to nearly 425,000 families. Our forest is a part of the place we call home, as well as a global natural resource whose care and stewardship matters to every Canadian and to all citizens of the world. It is crucial for realizing our aspirations as a society and as a nation. Accordingly, our vision for our forest underscores the primary importance of sustaining its vitality.

Of Canada's 401.9 million hectares (1 billion acres) of forest and other wooded land, 73 percent is considered commercial forest capable of growing commercial tree species. Canada's forest accounts for up to 10 percent of the world's forest cover, about 30 percent of the world's boreal forest, more than 25 percent of the world's temperate rainforest, 25 percent of the world wetlands and 20 percent of the world's fresh water.

For additional information on Canada's forest, Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Forest Service report to Parliament, *The State of Canada's Forests*, is available on the Internet at:

http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/cfs-scf/national/what-quoi/sof

CONTACT US

Canada is open to sharing its experiences and to learning from others around the world so that improvements can be made to the way future sustainable forest management strategies are developed, implemented and evaluated.

To get involved and to learn more about the *National Forest Strategy, A Sustainable Forest: The Canadian Commitment*, the *Canada Forest Accord* or the National Forest Strategy Coalition, please communicate with:

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Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.
http://www.alpac.ca

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (non-signatory)
http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd

Alberta Wilderness Association
http://www.albertawilderness.ca

Association des biologistes du Québec
http://www.abq.qc.ca

Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals
http://www.abcfp.ca

Barrett Lumber Company
http://www.barrettlumber.com

BIOCAP Canada Foundation
http://www.biocap.ca

British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range
http://www.gov.bc.ca

Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners

Canadian Forestry Association
http://www.canadianforestry.com

Canadian Institute of Forestry
http://www.cif-ifc.org

Canadian Institute of Forestry—Central Ontario Section
http://www.cifcos.org

Canadian Institute of Forestry—Ottawa Valley Section
http://www.cif-ifc.org/ovs

Canadian Institute of Forestry—Saskatchewan Section
http://www.cif-ifc.org/sk

Canadian Institute of Forestry—Southern Ontario Section
http://www.cif-ifc.org/sos

Canadian Model Forest Network
http://www.modelforest.net

Canadian Silviculture Association
http://www.brinkmanforest.com

Canadian Wildlife Federation
http://www.cwf-fcf.org

College of Alberta Professional Foresters
http://www.professionalforesters.ab.ca

Conservation Ontario
http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca

Council of Forest Industries
http://www.cofi.org

Conseil de l'industrie forestière du Québec

Ducks Unlimited Canada
http://www.ducks.ca

Farm Woodlot Association of Saskatchewan
http://members.tripod.com/blsaw/index.htm

Federation of Canadian Municipalities
http://www.fcm.ca

Fédération des producteurs de bois du Québec

Forest Renewal Co-op Inc.
http://www.forestrenewal.ca

ForestCare Corp.
http://www.forestcare.com

Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada
http://www.feric.ca

Forintek Canada Corp.
http://www.forintek.ca

FORREX Forest Research Extension Partnership
http://www.forrex.org

Friends of the Oldman River

Fur Institute of Canada
http://www.fur.ca

Lakehead University—Faculty of Forestry
and the Forest Environment
http://www.lakeheadforestry.ca

Manitoba Conservation
http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/forestry

Maritime Lumber Bureau
http://www.mlb.ca

Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec
(non-signatory participant)
http://www.mrn.gouv.qc.ca

National Aboriginal Forestry Association
http://www.nafaforestry.org

Natural Resources Canada—Canadian Forest Service
http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/cfs-scf

National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca

New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners

New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources
http://www.gnb.ca/0078

Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources
http://www.gov.nf.ca/forestry

Northwest Territories Department of Environment and Natural Resources
http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca

Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestry

Ontario Forestry Association
http://www.oforest.on.ca

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
http://www.ofah.org

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca

Ontario Professional Foresters Association
http://www.opfa.ca

Ontario Urban Forest Council
http://www.oufc.org

Ontario Woodlot Association
http://www.ont-woodlot-assoc.org

Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec
http://www.oifq.com

Prince Edward Island Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry
http://www.gov.pe.ca/go/forest

Prince Edward Island Nature Trust
http://www.peisland.com/nature

Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada
http://www.paprican.ca

Registered Professional Foresters Association of Nova Scotia
http://www.rpfans.ca

Saskatchewan Department of Environment
http://www.se.gov.sk.ca

Sierra Club of Canada
http://www.sierraclub.ca

Sustainable Forest Management Network
http://sfm-1.biology.ualberta.ca

Tree Canada Foundation
http://www.treecanada.ca

Trees Ontario Foundation
http://www.treesontario.on.ca

Union of British Columbia Municipalities
http://www.civicnet.bc.ca

University of British Columbia—Faculty of Forestry
http://www.forestry.ubc.ca

Université Laval—Faculté de foresterie et de géomatique
http://www.ffg.ulaval.ca

Wildlife Habitat Canada
http://www.whc.org

Woodlot Association of Alberta
http://www.woodlot.org

Yukon Territory Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/forestry